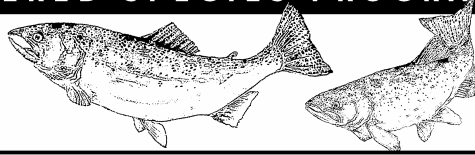


## newsletter

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## Salmon Savers: Tammy Mackey



Tammy Mackey &amp; Husband, Michael Eakin

When asked what they want to be when they grow up most little girls respond with "ballerina, astronaut, or actor." Tammy Mackey's response as a little girl was, "bone-ologist." The woods on Tammy's family property in Hockinson provided her with ample study material.

"I would find dead animals in the woods and study the bones." It was this fascination, combined with her interest in freshly removed fish organs, that lead Tammy to tell her parents she would grow up to be a bone-ologist. The University of Washington did not have a bone-ology department, so Prairie High School's class valedictorian had to settle for a major in fisheries biology.

Tammy's education and zeal for salmon recovery in the Northwest lead her to her position as a fisheries biologist with the Army Corps. of Engineers at Bonneville Lock and Dam. Her passion as a salmon saver brought Tammy to a passion of another sort: her husband of two months, Michael Eakin. Michael, a commercial diver, met Tammy while working on a project at Bonneville.

Fortunately, Michael shares Tammy's love of travel. After their July wedding at Lewisville Park the pair spent a month traveling through Europe. Tammy, whose travels have taken her to all but two of the world's continents, says she particularly enjoyed the Bavarians. "Switzerland is beautiful and has some of the clearest water I've seen in Europe."

Now that they have returned from their trip abroad, Tammy and Michael are working on a Trout Unlimited volunteer project building a trail on School House Creek. In addition to being President of the Clark County chapter of Trout Unlimited, Tammy's other volunteer activities include: the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, Watershed Stewards, the Clark County ESA Advisory Committee, and the Clark County League of Women Voters. In order to foster future "bone-ologists" Tammy also volunteers for the Wolftree Program—a mentoring program based in Portland.

The Wolftree Program provides Tammy an opportunity to mentor children on what it's like to be a biologist. The former Sammy Award Winner sees the value of a female scientist setting an example for children. "It is interesting to see in the younger children that the girls are often less squeamish around the worms and fish than the boys are. As they get older and more exposed to traditional gender roles the girls become more squeamish."

Tammy sees getting all children more interested in salmon as key to their recovery in the Northwest. "Getting people to appreciate the resource (salmon) is very important." Tammy's favorite quote says it very eloquently: "We will conserve only what we love, and we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." (*Baba Dioum, Senegal Conservationist*)

## **Clark County's road maintenance practices certified as ESA-compliant**

Clark County's routine road maintenance practices have been certified by NOAA Fisheries as fully complying with the Endangered Species Act under Limit 10 of the 4(d) rule. This means that Clark County is conserving threatened species of fish when it conducts road maintenance activities and will not be held liable for the "taking" of threatened fish species when following these approved road maintenance practices.

"This is a major milestone for fish recovery in Clark County," said Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris. "Our fish-friendly road maintenance activities meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and are consistent with county policy. These road activities follow some rigorously tested best management practices that, to the best of our knowledge, assist in the conservation of fish populations in our region."

The routine road maintenance program that Clark County submitted to NOAA Fisheries for certification was based on a similar program developed by the Regional Forum, a consortium of Washington State agencies and jurisdictions. The Regional Forum's program was the first such program to receive ESA certification from NOAA Fisheries. Working with the Regional Forum, Clark County developed its own routine road maintenance program, one of the first in southwest Washington to be recognized as ESA-compliant.

The county had to demonstrate to NOAA Fisheries that it met certain criteria, including the use of best management practices (BMPs) as described in a new BMP manual written by the Regional Forum in

cooperation with NOAA Fisheries. Other certification requirements include:

- Training all road crews and other county staff on protecting fish habitat through use of BMPs in the design and maintenance of road facilities and projects.
- Tracking and monitoring activities.
- Identifying important habitat locations within the road maintenance right-of-way.
- Providing biennial reports to NOAA Fisheries on the effectiveness of road maintenance activities.
- Developing provisions for responding to emergencies such as chemical spills.
- Conducting ongoing research and using adaptive management principles that allow for the modification of BMPs if necessary.

Here are some examples of how the Clark County Operations Division has modified its practices since salmon and steelhead were listed as threatened under the ESA:

- To control vegetation along roadsides, rely more on mowing or brush cutting rather than chemical treatments that can cause water quality and habitat concerns.
- Use alternatives to diesel to clean asphalt and oil equipment and tools; drip pans collect excess oil from equipment.
- Reduce the amount of oil used in cold mix overlays and use polymer modified oil in chip sealing to reduce the chance of oil runoff.
- Use erosion control devices to minimize sediment during maintenance activities.

## **Regional Recovery Plan**

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) is leading a collaborative approach to restoring threatened anadromous fish species and rebuilding other focal fish and wildlife species in the Washington Lower Columbia River region. The collaborative approach builds partnerships with federal, state, tribal, local governments, and the public throughout the region. It integrates several different planning efforts—including ESA

recovery planning, Northwest Power Planning Council subbasin planning, state salmon recovery planning, and state watershed planning—into a single regional planning

process. A regional recovery/subbasin draft plan was released in May 2004. The recovery planning process includes two Phases. Phase 1 is the development of this technical foundation. The foundation has been used in Phase II analyses to evaluate scenarios, strategies, and actions to further recovery.

The planning effort focuses on six salmonid species. Four are listed as threatened under the ESA: chum, Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. One species, Coho, is proposed for listing. Another species, coastal cutthroat, is included as a species of regional interest. These six

species comprise 69 individual populations. The plan also addresses selected anadromous and resident fish and wildlife of interest under the NPCC subbasin planning process, including sturgeon, Pacific lamprey, smelt, northern pikeminnow, shad, introduced gamefish, dusky Canada goose, Caspian terns, Columbia white-tailed deer, sandhill crane, western pond turtle, and selected neotropical birds.

The planning area encompasses the entire Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region excepting the White Salmon basin. The planning area includes the Washington portion of the mainstem and estuary of the lower Columbia River as well as 18 major and a number of lesser tributary basins. These include the Chinook, Grays, Skamokawa, Elochoman, Mill, Abernathy, Germany, Cowlitz, Coweeman, Kalama, Lewis, Lake, Salmon Creek, Washougal, Duncan, Hardy, Hamilton, Wind, and Little White Salmon subbasins.

The Phase II draft recovery/subbasin plan takes a comprehensive, lifecycle approach to increase productivity and reduce mortality at each stage of a

salmon's lifecycle. It integrates actions of a variety of agencies, governments, non-profits and citizens to produce a defined range of salmon populations. Clark County's role under the plan will include ensuring development regulations protect habitat, upgrading operations practices such as road and parks maintenance, creating incentives for citizens to protect habitat, providing education and outreach to our citizens, and participating with other partners in plan implementation. While the plan is still in draft form, it presents an exciting hope for salmon recovery in our region. The draft plan may be viewed at [www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/lowerColumbia/plan/](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/lowerColumbia/plan/). Comments on the plan are being accepted. Contact the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board for more information. Their phone number is (360) 425-1555.

### **Fun at the Fair**

*by Sonnet Lauberth*

Where were you August 6<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>? Well, the Clark County Endangered Species Program was at the "Summer's Best Party", otherwise known as the Clark County Fair. We joined forces with the Master Composters and Watershed Stewards to give fairgoers an action-packed, educational look at gardening, composting, water conservation, and salmon recovery.

During the course of the nine days, we had over 900 people attend our booth and join the fun. Kids got a chance to play "The River Starts With You", a computer game which teaches them about the affects of pollution

on salmon. Adults and children of all ages enjoyed the relaxing garden set-up, which included a running fountain, rain garden, and various examples of recycled garden art. The first day of the fair we were even awarded the ribbon for the "Best Agricultural and Educational Exhibit".

We are already looking forward to next year's fair and hope to see you there!

### **And the winners are...**

The 2004 Sammy Awards were held May 20 at the Water Resource Education Center in Vancouver. Larry Cassidy, Jr. of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council was the guest speaker at the fourth annual awards program and received a special commissioner's award for his contributions to salmon recovery.

Clark County Commissioners Judie Stanton, Craig Pridemore, and Chairwoman Betty Sue Morris presented the awards to the following individuals:

#### **KIM KLEIN**

This Ridgefield High School biology teacher was recognized for her efforts to reestablish the presence of

salmon in Gee Creek. In addition to overseeing the development of a trail from the school to the creek, enabling students to monitor water quality, Ms. Klein coordinates a science symposium each semester and has brought students to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to undertake volunteer habitat restoration projects.

#### **FRIENDS OF TREES**

Since the fall of 2001, Friends of Trees has conducted restoration activities at Friendship Park, restoring native vegetation and improving fish habitat along Burnt Bridge Creek. Friendship Park is an educational resource for

schools such as Discovery Middle School, whose students have been involved in the plantings.

#### **PAM LEHRMAN & JUDY BUFFORD**

For several years, Pam Lehrman and her students have been monitoring water conditions at Cougar Creek through the Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP). The enthusiasm with which the students present their results at the annual SWRP Watershed Summit and in other public forums are testimony to Pam and Judy's skill and dedication as educators.

#### **JOE HYMER, BOB ELSKAMP, ROGER SHAW, CARL DUGGER**

This group of individuals coordinated the efforts of landowners and other volunteers in removing a sand plume that had settled in Woods Landing, one of the few major chum spawning grounds on the Columbia River. It is estimated that their tireless work on this project saved the lives of thousands of juvenile salmon.

#### **JIM MALINOWSKI**

Salmon have been a lifelong interest for Jim and he has spent considerable time and energy in recent years trying bringing them back to our waterways. Mr. Malinowski is a member of Fish First, serves on the Clark County ESA Advisory Committee, and has volunteered as the project manager for six in-stream habitat restoration projects

#### **BILL DOTY**

Mr. Doty was recognized for working in conjunction with Fish First to restore forty seven hundred feet of Cedar Creek that runs through his property in order to improve habitat for the steelhead, Chinook, and Coho salmon that use the area for spawning and rearing. Bill has also worked with Clark Conservation District to restore other stream bank areas, and he is encouraging his neighbors to allow habitat restoration on their land.

#### **MOTHER NATURE'S GARDEN**

Clark County's Solid Waste Program has been capturing the imagination of young citizens with Mother Nature's Garden, an entertaining puppet show that has reached almost 25,000 school children since it was implemented four years ago. The show conveys the importance of clean water, healthy soil, and safe habitat for diverse species. The star of the show, a salmon puppet named "Sammy", accepted the award on behalf of the Program.

#### **JEFF WITTNER**

As Clark Public Utility's Environmental Services Manager, Jeff Wittner works with private landowners to implement habitat restoration projects in environmentally sensitive riparian areas of Clark County. By educating people about the benefits to salmon and water quality, Jeff makes landowners feel good about their decision to set aside part of their land as wildlife habitat.

### **2004 Certificates of Merit**

#### **Larry Snyder**

For working with the Vancouver Wildlife League to restore habitat for fish and wildlife in ecologically sensitive areas of Clark County.

#### **Randall Pearl and Mary Kay Moskal**

For working with the community to reclaim a creek for salmon in Pleasant Valley Park.

#### **Mike Moss**

For many hours of volunteer service helping to replenish diminished stocks of salmon in the North and East Forks of the Lewis River.

#### **Rosemary Boardman and Discovery Middle School students**

For helping to plant native trees and shrubs along Burnt Bridge Creek in Friendship Park.

### **Calendar Highlights**

#### *Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board*

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 425-1555 or visit [www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us](http://www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us).

*ESA Advisory Committee Meeting*, 6:30 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, Vancouver. Contact: John Tyler at (360) 397-2022 or [john.tyler@clark.wa.gov](mailto:john.tyler@clark.wa.gov)

*2004 Columbia River Watershed Festival*, September 22-24, Vancouver Lake, Vancouver, Contact: Carrie Kraten, Environmental Education Cooperative, (360) 546-9510 or [kraten@vancouver.wsu.edu](mailto:kraten@vancouver.wsu.edu)

*Backyard Composting & Recycling Workshops*, 6-9, September 30; 9-12, October 16; 3-6, October 29; 9-12, October 30; registration is required. Contact: (360) 397-6060, ext. 0

*Community Wormshops*, 3-6, October 1; 9-12 November 6; pre-registration required; class fee: \$25. Contact: (360) 397-6060, ext. 0

*"First Saturdays" Natural Gardens at Burnt Bridge*, 10-1, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, September-November; 4505 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, Contact: Kathi Silveria, (360) 397-6118, ext. 4830